



139 Main Street, East Berlin

1896

East Berlin United Methodist Church

In 1864 the East Berlin Methodist Church was organized. In 1876 a building was built which was replaced in 1896. It was damaged by fire in 1949 and rebuilt.

It was damaged by fire April 2022 and is being rebuilt.

Gothic revival

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 084

1896 Gothic revival,

A small church building was erected in 1876. Twenty years later, this building was constructed in its place.

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

1900 Methodist Church

Historic Buildings of Connecticut

In 1864 the East Berlin Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. In 1876 a church building was erected. In 1896 the present building was built on the same spot. Originally the building has a Tiffany stained glass window. The church was restored after it was damaged by a fire in 1949.



East Berlin Methodist Church about 1900



**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

#084

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM:	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR. SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> NR
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common)	(Historic)		
	Methodist-Episcopal Church			
	2. TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
	Berlin	East Berlin	Hartford	
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)	139 Main Street		
	17-4/151A/34			
	4. OWNER(S)	" " Trustees of Methodist-Episcopal Church East Berlin		
	Church			
	5. USE (Present)	(Historic)		
	Church			
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, EXPLAIN Church
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1896		
	Gothic Revival			
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____			
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
10. ROOF (Type)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ (Material) <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street				
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
2		25' x 100'		
12. CONDITION (Structural)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated				
13. INTEGRITY (Location)				
On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES				
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Parsonage at rear (treated separately)				
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT				
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density				
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS				
In a mostly Victorian residential neighborhood.				

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER HRC	DATE 11/84
	VIEW SE	NEGATIVE ON FILE D9
COMPILED BY	NAME Historic Resource Consultants THE Colt Armory 65 Van Dyke Avenue ADDRESS Hartford, Connecticut 06108	DATE 12/84
20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:		



17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (Interior and/or exterior)

The Methodist Episcopal Church has a steep front-facing gable with wide overhanging eaves and in the peak, a chamfered bracing with a central pendant. The facade features nine windows treated to suggest a single 2 1/2 story pointed-arched opening. A single mold encloses this group of windows, and vertical boards connect the verticals of the individual frames. The right elevation has a 1 1/2 story gabled bay extension with an original entry underneath a simple hood on jigsaw brackets. At the rear of this is a modern brick addition, and further to the rear, another gabled bay extension. This rear extension, also 1 1/2 stories, is treated as a semi-octagonal bay with eaves supported on chamfered jigsaw brackets with pendants. In the gable peak is a large circular panel with an applied five-pointed star. The left elevation has a single bay extension (continued)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)	18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
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19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Architecturally, the Methodist Episcopal Church is significant as a good example of the Gothic Revival style. Popularized as a domestic style by Andrew Jackson Downing before the Civil War, Gothic Revival architecture experienced a second wave of popularity in the late Victorian era as an ecclesiastical and institutional style. Typical Gothic Revival features present here include the steeply pitched gables, chamfered bracing, and extensive use of pointed-arched forms. The semi-octagonal treatment of the bay extensions and the applied wooden decorations are typical of Victorian Vernacular domestic building.

Historically, the Methodist Episcopal Church is significant as a long-time community institution. The first Methodist Episcopal services in East Berlin were held in 1864. A small church was built on this site in 1876. Twenty years later, the trustees obtained (continued)

Berlin Land Records 41:3 (1876); 44:70 (1896)
Trumbull, II, p. 20

Methodist Episcopal Church

17. (continued):

nearly identical to the right-rear bay; it also has an original paneled door with a glazed pointed-arched transom. Pointed arched windows with downward-extended verticals are used on both side elevations.

19. (continued):

a mortgage from the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church to build the present rectory and church.